

New Jersey - Congressman John Adler, who represents Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, released the following statement after welcoming home thousands of New Jersey National Guard Troops this morning. At the ceremony, soldiers presented Congressman Adler with the American flag that was flown over the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Headquarters in Iraq.

"Each of you has made this country safer through your work. Thanks to your patriotism and bravery, our freedom and liberty continue to prosper.

"Your families, too, make a great sacrifice through your service. We realize that for every soldier deployed, there is a family supporting them and making sacrifices at home.

"On behalf of all the residents of South Jersey, and this entire state, I thank you for your service."

Congressman Adler was with the 50th Brigade last summer when the National Guard troops

were federalized and at McGuire again last week when they returned safely from their mission.